

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 1. (currently amended) A voice portal hosting system,
2 intended to be connected to a first voice telecommunication
3 network in order for a plurality of users in said network to
4 establish a connection with said system using voice equipment,
5 said system comprising:

6 a memory in which a plurality of interactive voice
7 response applications providing interactive voice
8 response functionality is stored; and

9 uploading means for independently uploading said
10 plurality of interactive voice response applications
11 through a second telecommunication network by a
12 plurality of independent value-added service
13 providers, wherein

14 at least a plurality of said plurality of interactive
15 voice response applications uses a common speech
16 recognition module run on said system, and further
17 wherein

18 said system is adapted to execute said voice response
19 application when one of said users calls said
20 system.

1 2. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 1,
2 wherein said common speech recognition module comprises a
3 common user profile database.

1 3. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 2,
2 wherein said common user profile database includes user
3 preferences.

1 4. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 3,
2 wherein said user preferences include a delivery address for
3 goods and/or services ordered with said value-added service
4 providers.

1 5. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 3,
2 wherein said user preferences include a billing address and/or
3 preferences for goods and services ordered with said value-
4 added service providers.

1 6. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 1,
2 wherein said common speech recognition module uses user-
3 specific speech models.

1 7. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 6,
2 comprising means for adapting said common speech models
3 associated to a user during each dialogue between said user
4 and each of said interactive voice response applications.

1 8. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 7,
2 wherein said means for adapting said common speech models uses
3 recorded users' speech samples for adapting said common speech
4 models off-line.

1 9. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 1,
2 wherein said common speech recognition module uses Hidden
3 Markov Models, and further comprising a Hidden Markov Models
4 adaptation module for adapting said models to said user.

1 10. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 9, wherein said Hidden Markov Models adaptation module allows
3 for an incremental adaptation of said models.

1 11. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 1, wherein said common speech recognition module uses user-
3 specific language models.

1 12. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 11, comprising means for adapting said common language models
3 associated to a user during each dialogue between said user
4 and each of said interactive voice response applications.

1 13. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 1, wherein said common speech recognition module uses
3 selections previously made by said users.

1 14. (currently amended) The voice portal hosting system
2 of claim 13, wherein said selections previously made by said
3 users are stored in said voice portal hosting system for
4 improving the arborescence of the menus.

1 15. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 1, wherein at least a plurality of said interactive voice
3 response applications use a common user identification module
4 run on said system.

1 16. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 15, wherein said user identification module uses an
3 identification of the equipment used by said user in said
4 first telecommunication network.

1 17. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 16, being operated by a telecom operator of said first
3 telecommunication network, wherein said user identification
4 module uses an identification of the equipment used by said

5 user in said first telecommunication network even when said
6 identification is not available for the other B-subscribers of
7 said first telecommunication network.

1 18. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 15, wherein said user identification module uses a voice-based
3 user identification module.

1 19. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 15, wherein said common speech recognition module uses a
3 speaker-dependant speech recognition algorithm, wherein said
4 speaker is identified by said common user identification
5 module.

1 20. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 1, wherein at least a plurality of said interactive voice
3 response applications use a common billing module and a common
4 clearing center for dispatching the collected amounts to said
5 value-added service providers.

1 21. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 20, wherein said common billing module allows for the billing
3 of transactions between said users and said value-added
4 service providers on a common bill prepared by the operator of
5 said voice portal hosting system.

1 22. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 20, wherein at least a plurality of said users have a deposit
3 account on said voice portal hosting system which can be used
4 for transactions with a plurality of said value-added service
5 providers.

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1 23. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 1, wherein at least a plurality of said interactive voice
3 response applications use a user authentication module based
4 on an electronic signature and/or on biometric parameters of
5 said users.

1 24. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 1, wherein said second telecommunication network is a TCP/IP
3 network.

1 25. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 24, wherein at least some of said interactive voice response
3 applications are described with Voice extensible Markup
4 Language documents.

1 26. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 25, wherein a compilation module run on said system compiles
3 said interactive voice response applications.

1 27. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 1, wherein at least one free interactive voice response
3 application is made available by the operator of said system.

1 28. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim
2 27, wherein said free interactive voice response application
3 includes a free directory assistance service.

1 29. (currently amended) A voice portal hosting system,
2 intended to be connected to a first voice telecommunication
3 network in order for a plurality of users in said network to
4 establish a connection with said system using a voice

5 equipment, said system comprising a memory in which a
6 plurality of interactive voice response applications providing
7 interactive voice response functionality have been
8 independently uploaded through a second telecommunication
9 network by a plurality of independent value-added service
10 providers, wherein at least a plurality of said interactive
11 voice response applications uses a common speech recognition
12 module run on said system, wherein said common speech
13 recognition module comprises a common user profile database
14 including user preferences, wherein said common speech
15 recognition module further uses common user-specific speech
16 models, and further wherein said system is adapted to execute
17 said voice response application when one of said users calls
18 said system; and still further wherein said system further
19 comprises means for adapting said common speech models
20 associated to a user during each dialogue between said user
21 and each of said interactive voice response applications.

1 30. (currently amended) A method for allowing each of a
2 plurality of value-added service providers to set up an
3 interactive voice response application which can be used by a
4 plurality of users, comprising the steps of:
5 independently uploading said interactive voice response
6 applications which provide interactive voice
7 response functionality through a second
8 telecommunication network in a voice portal hosting
9 system commonly used by said plurality of value-
10 added service providers, ~~and~~ at least a plurality of
11 said applications using a common speech recognition
12 module run on said voice portal hosting system; and
13 executing said voice response application when one of
14 said users calls said system.

1 31. (original) The method of claim 30, wherein said
2 interactive voice response applications use a common user
3 profile database stored in said voice portal hosting system.

1 32. (original) The method of claim 31, wherein said
2 interactive voice response applications use user preferences
3 stored in said common user profile database.

1 33. (original) The method of claim 32, wherein said user
2 preferences include a delivery address for goods and/or
3 services ordered with said value-added service providers.

1 34. (original) The method of claim 33, wherein said user
2 preferences include a billing address and/or preferences for
3 goods and/or services ordered with said value-added service
4 providers.

1 35. (original) The method of claim 34, wherein said
2 common speech recognition module uses common users' speech
3 models.

1 36. (original) The method of claim 35, wherein said
2 common speech models associated to a user are adapted during
3 each dialogue between said users and each of said interactive
4 voice response applications.

1 37. (original) The method of claim 30, wherein said
2 common speech recognition module uses common users' language
3 models.

1 38. (original) The method of claim 37, wherein said
2 common language models associated to a user are adapted during

3 each dialogue between said user and each of said interactive
4 voice response applications.

1 39. (original) The method of claim 30, wherein at least a
2 plurality of said interactive voice response applications uses
3 a common user identification module run on said system.

1 40. (original) The method of claim 39, wherein said user
2 identification module uses an identification of the equipment
3 used by said user in said first telecommunication network.

1 41. (original) The method of claim 40, wherein said voice
2 portal hosting system is operated by a telecom operator of
3 said first telecommunication network, wherein said user
4 identification module uses an identification of the equipment
5 used by said user in said first telecommunication network even
6 when said identification is not available for the other B-
7 subscribers of said first telecommunication network.

1 42. (original) The method of claim 39, wherein said user
2 identification module uses a voice-based speaker
3 identification module.

1 43. (original) The method of claim 39, wherein said
2 common speech recognition module uses a speaker-dependant
3 speech recognition algorithm, said user being identified by
4 said common user identification module.

1 44. (original) The method of claim 30, wherein at least a
2 plurality of said interactive voice response applications use
3 a common billing module and a common clearing center for
4 dispatching the collected amounts to said value-added service
5 providers.

1 45. (original) The method of claim 44, wherein said
2 common billing module allows for the billing of transactions
3 between said users and said value-added service providers on a
4 common bill prepared by the operator of said voice portal
5 hosting system.

1 46. (original) The method of claim 44, wherein at least a
2 plurality of said users have a deposit account on said system
3 which can be used for transactions with a plurality of said
4 value-added service providers.

1 47. (original) The method of claim 30, wherein at least a
2 plurality of said interactive voice response applications use
3 a user authentication module based on an electronic signature
4 and/or on biometric parameters of said users.

1 48. (original) The method of claim 30, wherein at least
2 some of said interactive voice response applications are
3 described with Voice extensible Markup Language documents.

1 49. (original) The method of claim 48, wherein a
2 compilation module run on said voice portal hosting system
3 compiles said interactive voice response applications.

1 50. (currently amended) Method for allowing each of a
2 plurality of independent value-added service providers to set
3 up an interactive voice response application which can be used
4 by a plurality of users, comprising:

5 independently uploading said interactive voice response
6 applications which provide interactive voice
7 response functionality through a second
8 telecommunication network in a voice portal hosting

9 system commonly used by said plurality of value-
10 added service providers, and
11 executing said voice response application when one of
12 said users calls said system; wherein
13 at least a plurality of said applications use a common
14 speech recognition module run on said voice portal
15 hosting system, and wherein
16 said common speech recognition module uses common users'
17 speech models, and wherein
18 said common speech models associated to a user are
19 adapted during each dialogue between said users and
20 each of said interactive voice response
21 applications.

1 51. (original) Computer program product directly loadable
2 into the internal memory of a digital computer, comprising
3 software code portions for performing the steps of one of the
4 claims 30 to 50 when said product is run on a server connected
5 to a first telecommunication network.